Proposal for setting up low-powered Radio Broadcasting Stations

2955. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from universities, educational institutions or NGOs to set up low-powered or other radio broadcast stations for educational or development purpose;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received in each case indicating the names of parties involved and when was the proposal received;

(c) whether Government have accepted or rejected these proposals; and

(d) the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deletion of Educational Programmes on DD Channel

2956. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educational programmes that are being telecast on the DD Channel;

(b) whether it is a fact that the DD is proposing to shelve the UGC and IGNOU educational programmes on its channels; and

(c) if so, the reasons for deleting those programmes.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATIONAND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The details are given in the Statement *{See* below).

(b) and (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has undertaken a restructuring exercise of its programming on DD National Channel, with a view to meeting its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster and to ensure that it is in a position to generate revenue to gradually become self-supporting. They are, discussing with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the future telecast arrangements of educational programmes of "Gyan-Darshan" Channel, produced by various agencies like UGC, IGNOU, CIET etc. No final decision has been taken as yet.